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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

120218

COUNTRY Costa Rica

DATE: 25X1A6a

INFO: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Resources of Opposition Party in Costa Rica

DIST. 26 October 1947

25X1A6a

PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT SO 6946*

ORIGIN
25X1A6

25X1A2g In amplification of [REDACTED] which stated that certain wealthy members of the Opposition in Costa Rica were ready to contribute money for arms against the Government, the following information is presented on the resources of some of the most prominent figures in the anti-administration group. Not all these men are admirers of Otilio Ulate, but they are bound to his party by a common hatred of the Calderon Guardias. In describing their relative wealth, the following estimates of their income may be applied (all figures are in US dollars).

Extremely wealthy	\$50,000-\$100,000 yearly
Quite wealthy	\$25,000-\$50,000 "
Moderately wealthy	\$10,000-\$25,000 "
Well-to-do	\$5,000-\$10,000 "

1. a. Mario Gonzalez Lahmann, a large shareholder of the Banco Nacional, is definitely Opposition and contributes regularly. Extremely wealthy.
- b. Jorge Fina, manager of the Banco Nacional, elder statesman and Union Club fixture, is reported to be in the Opposition fold, but evidence indicates that he is cautious enough to be friendly to the Calderons as well. Extremely wealthy.
- c. Fernando Castro Cervantes, a cattle dealer and a presidential aspirant himself, is not friendly toward Ulate, but donated to the Opposition. He is known as a slippery character and is suspected of playing both sides. Extremely wealthy.
- d. Fernando Alvarado Chacon, inheritor of one of the largest, if not the largest, fortunes in Costa Rica, is considered foolish with his money and believed to be a very heavy contributor. He is a large stockholder in the Costa Rican Coffee House. Extremely wealthy.
- e. Oscar and Carlos Rohrmoser Lahmann are large landowners and businessmen who work quietly for the Opposition. Extremely wealthy.
2. a. Roberto Salazar Mata, a rabid Oppositionist, is the leader of the wing which believes that only armed force will win for the Opposition. He is close to Ulate and Mario Echandi Jimenez, Ulate's No. 1 man, and taught the use of arms and dynamite during the recent strike. A clandestine radio was located on his property during the strike. Salazar informed that the Opposition spent a total of 280,000 colones in August, expected September expenses to

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Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001000220004-6

Date: 2000-08-28 By: 018

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 Next Review Date: 2008.

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reach 300,000 colones, and had on hand a total of 1,400,000 colones. Salazar is slightly demented on the subject of the Calderons and is known to contribute heavily to the Opposition. At the same time he is not blind to the opportunity for making more money should Ulate win. He is already quite wealthy by virtue of his marriage to one of the daughters of the late Felipe J. Alvarado, who made his fortune by selling out his power and light holdings to the Electric Bond and Share Company. Quite wealthy.

- b. Fernando Teran Valls is another son-in-law of Alvarado. He is cautious, desirous only of saving the wealth he married, but is more or less forced to contribute to save face and stay in line with his Union Club associates. He has stated that he is not against the existence of a Communist Party in Costa Rica, while Salazar is vehemently against Communism, synonymous to him with Calderonism. Quite wealthy.
- c. Manuel Ortuno Boutin is a large shareholder in the Banco Nacional. Quite wealthy.
- d. Jose Joaquin Alfaro Yglesias is assistant manager of the Banco Nacional. Quite wealthy.
- e. Jaime Solera Bennett, a lawyer who is spared the trouble of practicing his profession by reason of a large inheritance, is a regular contributor to the Opposition. Considered quite wealthy.
- f. Jose Figueres Ferrer, an important farm and sawmill owner, is a violent individual of the Salazar order, bitter in his hatred of Dr. Calderon, who expelled him from the country during the war. Quite wealthy.
- g. Florentino Castro, a rabid Oppositionist, is the owner of an important dairy, coffee estates, and other properties. He is not quite literate. He is a heavy contributor to the Opposition. Quite wealthy.
- h. Alfredo Alvarado Lahmann, owner of a large importing house, is a strong Oppositionist and a heavy contributor. Quite wealthy.
- i. Carlos ("Canducho") Gutierrez Ortecho, a money lender, contributes regularly to the Opposition. Quite wealthy.
- j. Gaston and Manuel Peralta are important farm owners in the San Carlos Valley. Gaston owns a sawmill and also has shares in the Costa Rican Coffee House. Two subsources have stated that these men are not in a position to help the Opposition in a substantial way. Quite wealthy.
- k. Gonzalo and Eduardo Pinto Hernandez are owners of a large radio station. Eduardo is an important member of the violent faction, and contributes all he can to the party. Moderately wealthy.
- l. Fernando Esquivel Bonilla, brother-in-law of General Rene Picado and of Minister of Agriculture Jose Joaquin Peralta, is an important coffee grower and a heavy donor to the Opposition. Quite wealthy.
- m. Max Koborn Bolandi, owner of a large department store, contributes cautiously since he is an alternate member of the National Electoral Commission. Quite wealthy.

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3. a. Victor Manuel ("Mame") Yglesias Bonilla, Lionel Yglesias Bonilla, and Rafael Yglesias Bonilla are fervent supporters of the Opposition. The first is one of the larger stockholders in the Costa Rican Coffee House, the second the local manager of Esso (Standard Oil). The latter is capable of violent action. An automobile belonging to one of his gasoline stations was recently used in the bombing of a grocery run by three Cubans who had sided with the Government during the strike. Rafael Yglesias is just as partial to the use of armed force, but is not so rich as his brothers. Victor and Lionel, moderately wealthy; Rafael, well-to-do.
- b. Mamuel Lachner Chacon is the Central American agent of the Anglo-Chileno Salitre (fertilizer) Company and the owner of the local Chevrolet agency. He is a decent, upstanding member of the Opposition who contributes regularly but cautiously. Moderately wealthy.
- c. Ricardo Castro Beeche, manager of the newspaper La Nacion and former Minister to the United States, contributes regularly. According to two other sources, Castro is not rich enough to assist in a significant fashion, but his services as director of La Nacion are extremely important. Moderately wealthy.
- d. Dr. Fernando Pinto Echeverria is an extremely vociferous Oppositionist who donates within keeping of his income. Moderately wealthy.
- e. Dr. Francisco Jimenez Rodriguez is a violent member of the Opposition who, by his own admission, personally dynamited poles of the light company during the recent strike. Moderately wealthy.
- f. Pepin and Gonzalo Martinez are money-changers and speculators. Gonzalo is a strong Oppositionist and reported to be generous with his contributions. Moderately wealthy.
4. a. Mario Echandi Jimenez, a lawyer, and son of the Minister of Foreign Relations under the Calderon regime, is Ulate's deputy. He is opposed to Salazar's violent measures but probably could be persuaded to disregard his peaceable principles in the event of a showdown. He contributes heavily. Well-to-do.
- b. Dr. Carlos Luis Valverde Vega is a rabid, violent Oppositionist linked to recent bombing activities. He contributes as much as his means will allow. Well-to-do.
- c. Claudio Cortes Castro, brother of the late ex-President Leon Cortes Castro, contributes what he can. Well-to-do.
5. The best estimate that can be made regarding arms controlled by the Opposition is as follows:

Machine guns (light and heavy)	10-15
Rifles, shotguns	No reliable estimate
Dynamite	No estimate, but sources indicate this may be most important weapon in the hands of the Opposition
Bombs (locally made)	200 (probably more)

The Opposition has no planes or armored vehicles and is not counting on foreign military support.

6. The Opposition's success in obtaining arms is not known. However, on 8 September, Francisco Calderon Guardia, brother of the ex-President, advised the manager of his farm that the Opposition would receive arms in about six weeks, but that the Government would wait for the Oppositionists to start the trouble in order to have a good excuse to liquidate them. On the same day he informed a reliable source that the Government expected trouble in six to eight weeks.

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